

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Maruyama
Serial No. To be assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith
For: BASE MATERIAL FOR DRY DIRECT TABLETING COMPRISING LOW-SUBSTITUTED HYDROXYPROPYL CELLULOSE

Date: September 26, 2001

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

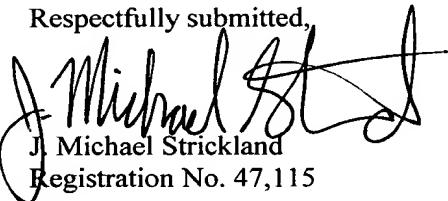
Sir:

Please consider the below amendment prior to the entry of the above-referenced patent application.

In the Specification:

At page one, prior to the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert --This application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-293279, filed September 27, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.--

Respectfully submitted,



J. Michael Strickland
Registration No. 47,115



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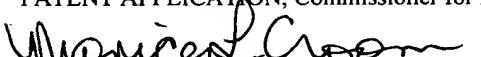
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Monica L. Croom
September 26, 2001